

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) A product based on calcium oxide in the form of coarse grains, comprising:

a protective film coating the grains, based on at least one film-forming compound, which is solid at room temperature and which, during application to the grains, is in solution or emulsion in a vaporisable vaporizable aqueous phase : ; and

on the surface of the grains, a layer of hydrated lime which is coated with the said solid film-forming compound.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A product according to Claim 11, wherein the said aqueous phase is water ~~and the product also comprises, on the surface of the grains, a thin layer of hydrated lime which is coated with the said hardened protective film.~~

Claim 13 (previously presented) A product according to Claim 11, wherein the film-forming compound, solid at room temperature, is chosen from the group consisting of vinyl homopolymers or copolymers, acrylic homopolymers or copolymers, paraffins, homopolymers or copolymers of butadiene, isoprene and styrene, silicones and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (previously presented) A product according to Claim 11, which is formed on the basis of at least one substance complying with the formula $x\text{CaO} \cdot (1-x)\text{MgO}$, where x is equal to or less than 1 but greater than 0.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A product according to Claim 11, in the form of grains with a size of at least 10 mm.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A product according to Claim 11, wherein the protective film has a thickness of less than 100 µm.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method of treating a product based on calcium oxide in the form of coarse grains, comprising

application, on the surface of the said grains, of a solution or emulsion in an aqueous phase of at least one film-forming compound, solid at room temperature ; and wherein

~~- evaporation of the aqueous phase, and~~

~~- hardening of a protective film of the said at least one film-forming compound, coating the grains.~~

the method further comprises, during the above mentioned application, an exothermic reaction between some of the aqueous phase and the calcium oxide contained in the grains, formation of a layer of hydrated lime on the surface of the grains, and instantaneous evaporation of the remaining aqueous phase caused by an increase in temperature resulting from the said exothermic reaction, which gives rise to a rapid hardening of the said protective film.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 17, comprising, during and/or after the said application, a heating of the product in order to evaporate the aqueous phase.

Claim 20 (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the application is implemented by spraying, ~~nebulisation~~ nebulization or ~~atomisation~~ atomization of the said solution or emulsion on the said grains.

Claim 21 (new) A product based on calcium oxide in the form of grains having a size of at least 10 mm, comprising:

a protective film coating the grains, based on at least one film-forming compound, which is solid at room temperature, and which during application to the grains, is in solution or emulsion in a vaporizable aqueous phase; and

on the surface of the grains, a layer of hydrated lime which is coated with the said solid film-forming compound.

Claim 22 (new) A method for treating a product based on calcium oxide in the form of grains having a size of at least 10 mm, comprising:

application, on the surface of the said grains, of a solution or emulsion in an aqueous phase of at least one film-forming compound, solid at room temperature; and

wherein during the above mentioned application, an exothermic reaction occurs between some of the aqueous phase and the calcium oxide contained in the grains,

whereby there is formed a layer of hydrated lime on the surface of the grains, and

whereby instantaneous evaporation of the remaining aqueous phase, caused by an increase in temperature resulting from the said exothermic reaction, gives rise to a rapid hardening of the said protective film.